

The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider and enter the following amendments:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 3, 8, 12, 16, 20 and 24 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 17, 19 and 25, as follows:

a' 1. (Amended) A multi-beam scanning apparatus comprising:

a multi-beam semiconductor laser;

a laser holder holding said multi-beam semiconductor laser;

a multi-beam light source unit [having] including said multi-beam semiconductor laser, [and] said laser holder, and a rectangular laser driving circuit board;

scanning imaging means for scanning a plurality of laser beams emitted by said multi-beam semiconductor laser to form an image on a surface to be scanned; and

a housing comprising a sidewall with a longitudinal edge, and supporting said scanning imaging means and said multi-beam light source unit, with said multi-beam light source unit being fixed to said sidewall of said housing and a longitudinal edge of said rectangular laser driving circuit

board being generally parallel with said longitudinal edge of said sidewall,

wherein said multi-beam semiconductor laser is fixed to said laser holder with an inclination at or near a predetermined rotational angle for adjusting a beam interval between the plurality of laser beams, and wherein a plurality of emission points of said multi-beam semiconductor laser are aligned along a line which is inclined with respect to said longitudinal edge of said sidewall.

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 could 2. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said multi-beam semiconductor laser has a laser array fixed with an inclination with respect to a reference surface of said laser holder.

6. (Amended) A multi-beam light source unit comprising:

a² a multi-beam semiconductor laser for emitting a plurality of laser beams;

a laser holder holding said multi-beam semiconductor laser; and

a multi-beam light source unit having said multi-beam semiconductor laser, [and] said laser holder, and a rectangular laser driving circuit board,

wherein said multi-beam semiconductor laser is fixed to said laser holder with an inclination at or near a predetermined rotational angle for adjusting a beam interval

between the plurality of laser beams, and wherein a plurality of emission points of said multi-beam semiconductor laser are aligned along a line which is inclined with respect to the longitudinal edge of said rectangular laser driving circuit board.

A² could

7. (Amended) A unit according to claim 6, wherein said multi-beam semiconductor laser has a laser array fixed with an inclination with respect to a reference surface of said laser holder.

A³

11. A multi-beam scanning apparatus comprising:
a multi-beam semiconductor laser;
a laser holder holding said multi-beam semiconductor laser;
a multi-beam light source unit having said multi-beam semiconductor laser and said laser holder;
scanning imaging means for scanning a plurality of laser beams emitted by said multi-beam semiconductor laser to form an image on a surface to be scanned;
a housing supporting said scanning imaging means and said multi-beam light source unit; and
fixing means for fixing said multi-beam light source unit to said housing, said fixing means having a plurality of fixing portions,

[wherein the center of rotation of said multi-beam light source unit and a plurality of emission points of said

multi-beam semiconductor laser are located on a straight line connecting at least two of the plurality of fixing portions or a planar region defined by straight lines connecting all the plurality of fixing portions]

a³ could

wherein said multi-beam light source unit has a center of rotation, said plurality of fixing portions comprise at least three fixing portions, and the center of rotation of said multi-beam light source unit and the plurality of emission points of said multi-beam semiconductor laser are located in a planar region defined by straight lines connecting said at least three fixing portions.

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17. (Amended) An apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said laser holder comprises an adjustment member for adjusting a [relative] position of said multi-beam semiconductor laser.

a⁵

19. (Amended) A multi-beam light source unit comprising:

- a multi-beam semiconductor laser for emitting a plurality of laser beams;
- a laser holder holding said multi-beam semiconductor laser;
- a multi-beam light source unit having said multi-beam semiconductor laser and said laser holder;
- a housing supporting said multi-beam light source unit; and

fixing means for fixing said multi-beam light source unit to said housing, said fixing means having a plurality of fixing portions,

[wherein the center of rotation of said multi-beam light source unit and a plurality of emission points of said multi-beam semiconductor laser are located on a straight line connecting at least two of the plurality of fixing portions or a planar region defined by straight lines connecting all the plurality of fixing portions]

*a5
could*

wherein said multi-beam light source unit has a center of rotation, said plurality of fixing portions comprise at least three fixing portions, and the center of rotation of said multi-beam light source unit and the plurality of emission points of said multi-beam semiconductor laser are located in a planar region defined by straight lines connecting said at least three fixing portions.

a6

25. (Amended) A unit according to claim 19, wherein said laser holder comprises an adjustment member for adjusting a [relative] position of said multi-beam semiconductor laser.

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above-identified application.